United Nations S/2017/886

Security Council

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26 October 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 20 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 18 to 20 October 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 20 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (18 October 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported four incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: two in Damascus and two in Homs.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any violations.

Most incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out two humanitarian operations:

2.8 tons of food were delivered to the local population in a populated area; and 2.5 tons of food were delivered to the local population in Khalidiyah, Hama Governorate.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered was 5.3 tons.

In total, 1,650 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo that has been delivered is 2,240.6 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, Russian military doctors have provided medical assistance to 308 people.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 60,307 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed in Kafr Mus and Fulayfil in Idlib Governorate and Tasnin in Homs Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,255.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah Governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (19 October 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 13 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: two in Damascus, four in Homs, two in Qunaytirah, four in Aleppo and one in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported one violation in Damascus Governorate.

Most incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation: 4.4 tons of food products were delivered to the local population in Tayyibah, Damascus Governorate.

In total, 1,651 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo which has been delivered is 2,244.9 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 206 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 60,513 residents.

A humanitarian convoy was sent through the United Nations to a populated area in Homs Governorate and delivered food products and medicines, with a total weight of 162 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,255.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah Governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (20 October 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported six incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: one in Aleppo, two in Homs, two in Damascus and one in Dar'a.

The Turkish representative office has reported one violation in Dar'a Governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation in Ghasibiyah in Homs Governorate. A total of 1.5 tons of food products was delivered to the local population.

In total, 1,652 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo which has been delivered is 2,246.5 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 109 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 60,622 residents.

A humanitarian convoy was sent through the United Nations to a populated area in Homs Governorate. Food products and medicines with a total weight of 162 tons were delivered to the local population.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,255.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

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Security Council

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25 October 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 22 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters regarding the repeated Israeli violations and attacks against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to apprise you of the most recent attacks, which were perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities on Saturday 21 October 2017.

The Israeli occupation forces have carried out a new attack on a military site in the Qunaytirah countryside, in a flagrant violation of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement. Earlier, armed terrorist groups that coordinate with and receive support and advice from the Israeli occupation fired shells, which landed in a deserted area in occupied territory. That incident provided a pretext for the attack.

This act of aggression is only the latest instance of collusion between the Israeli occupation and the armed terrorist groups. The organic relation between the two sides has been made clear by a chain of events and evidence. There can no longer be any doubt that the two are closely connected and have one and the same aim: to undermine the stability of the Syrian Arab Republic and threaten its territorial integrity.

The attack is merely a desperate attempt to provide some support for the armed terrorist groups, including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusrah Front, which have collapsed across Syria before the strikes carried out by the Syrian Arab Army and its allies.

Once again, the Syrian Arab Republic warns that such repeated acts of aggression will have serious repercussions, and can only be interpreted as support for terrorism and criminal terrorist groups. Israel and its backers have clearly laid down a challenge to the resolutions of the Security Council.

The Syrian Arab Republic is astonished that the Security Council has not been able to put an end to these Israeli acts of aggression and condemn them as a blatant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the rules of international law, and all of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including those concerning the disengagement of forces. The Syrian Arab Republic objects to the Security Council's persistent silence in the face of these repeated Israeli attacks. It expects the Council to take immediate and decisive action in order to curb such attacks and bring them to an end.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2017/888

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 October 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 23 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the twenty-sixth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2017/867).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is surprised to see its name dragged in to the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004), given that the Syrian Arab Republic has implemented all obligations of the resolution incumbent upon it. In particular, Syria objects to the references in paragraphs 2 and 6, as those matters do not fall within the mandate and parameters of resolution 1559 (2004). Syria expresses its regret that the authors of the report have fallen into line with the anti-Syrian political campaign aimed at interfering in Syria's internal affairs and undermining its bilateral relations with the Lebanese Republic.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also objects to the references to Syrian refugees in paragraph 7 of the report. Syria stresses its desire and readiness to enable Syrian citizens who have been forced to leave their homes because of terrorism perpetrated by armed terrorist groups to return to their homes safely without having their suffering exploited for political purposes. It also stresses the need to observe international humanitarian law and human rights instruments with respect to the Syrian refugees.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that border demarcation is a sovereign matter subject to the wills of the Governments of the two States involved. In that connection, we remind you that it is continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories that is preventing any progress on that issue, and that the real obstacle standing in the way of final demarcation of the Syrian-Lebanese border is the continued Israeli occupation of the Shab'a Farms.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its position regarding the statements contained in paragraph 12 concerning the Shab'a Farms. What is obstructing a resolution of that issue is the persistent and stubborn refusal by the Israeli occupying forces to implement internationally recognized resolutions and withdraw from the occupied lands. Resolute international will is required to compel the Israeli occupying forces to honour and implement the relevant international resolutions.

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The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also rejects all allegations designed to undermine the brotherly ties that unite Syria and Lebanon and to diminish the enormous sacrifices made by Syria on behalf of the recovery of Lebanon, the safety of its people, and its territorial integrity. Syria stresses that that the operations being carried out by the Syrian Arab Army on the Syrian-Lebanese border are legitimate activities aimed at combating terrorism, preventing arms smuggling and blocking terrorist infiltration and attacks launched from certain parts of Lebanese territory. Anyone who stands in the way of the support provided by Syria to our Lebanese brothers in their war against terrorism is supporting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Nusrah Front terrorist organizations. That is to say, they are supporting those who would undermine the stability of Lebanon.

We draw attention to the fact that those who would criticize the role played by Hizbullah in the struggle against terrorism on both Lebanese and Syrian territory do not want what is best for Lebanon, but instead want Lebanon to remain a hotbed of armed terrorist groups listed by the Security Council. Hizbullah is merely doing its part to combat terrorism in Lebanon and Syria in implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The fact that the authors of the report are content to refer to letters sent by Lebanon protesting Israeli violations against Syria Lebanese airspace without taking a clear stand against those violations demonstrates a total bias towards Israel, which has been violating the provisions of resolution 1559 (2004) in a systematic fashion.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it is dedicated to the stability, sovereignty, territorial integrity and regional safety of Lebanon, and that it rejects the continued practice of dragging internal events going on in Syria into the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative